responsibility and the organisation of the Directorate General of Mines Safety should be suitably strengthened for the purpose.

The employees of the Council will be compensated as per law, at the time of winding up of the Council.

Cultivation of Patato

1252. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the potato growers, particularly in North India, faced financial disaster due to high yield of the crop, lack of storage facility resulting in force sell at rock bottom price; and

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to ensure proper return to potato growers and discourage any trend to restrict cultivation of the crop out of frustration, if resorted to in the future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) There was a decline in the price of potato in Northern States such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana during post harvest period in 1988 due to increase in production in some areas.

(b) Government of India has introduced market intervention scheme with NAFED, as the nodal agency to procure potato at a reasonable price from the growers.

Suspension/Dismissal of DDA Officials

1253. DR. MOHD HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officials and employees of D.D.A. suspended or dismissed during the last three years;

(b) what are the details of charges and action taken against those officials and employees during the suspension; and

(c) whether any of the dismissed persons have been reinstated, if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). 170 officials/employees of the Delhi Development Authority were suspended or dismissed during the period 1-4-85 to 31-7-88 for various irregularities such as corruption/*mala fide* intentions, misconduct, laxity in supervision, negligence in the performance of duties, wilful/unauthorised absence etc. Suitable action for minor/major penalty proceedings has been initiated against the officials/employees wherever after investigation they have been prima-facie found irresponsible/guilty.

(c) No, Sir.

Mushairas and Kavi Sammelans on All India Radio/Doordarshan

1254. DR. MOHD HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mushairas and Kavi Sammelans broadcast/telecast from the different stations of All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendras from January 1986 to June, 1988;

(b) the number of poets who broadcasted in these Mushairas and Sammelans alongwith their names; and

(c) the amount of remuneration paid to these poets during this period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) There are a large number of All India Radio Stations/Doordarshan Kendras broadcasting/telecasting Hindi/Urdu Programmes. The details of Sammelans/Mushairas broadcast/telecast in the All India Radio/Doordarshan network by these stations are not maintained centrally in a compiled form.